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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/547,664

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EXAMINER

RENWICK, REGINALD A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3714

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/15/2010

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/547,664	Applicant(s) KIRIYAMA ET AL.	
	Examiner REGINALD A. RENWICK	Art Unit 3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 April 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. In response to the amendment filed on 04/29/2010, claims 1-3, and 6 are pending for examination.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the ejection port located on the first side wall must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next

Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Keiji (JP 2003-024512 as disclosed by Applicant).

Re claims 1 and 6: Keiji discloses a medal collecting tray (Fig. 6: object 23b) comprising:

a bottom wall on which medals are accumulated;

side and a rear walls surrounding three sides of the bottom wall (Fig. 6: 25c and 27;

Para. 0018 and 0027 in translated copy);

and a protrusion (Fig. 6: 25c) for regulating accumulation of medals along a rear wall, in which the protrusion is located above a bottom wall 27 and below a rear wall 25b so as to be separate from the bottom wall, wherein the protrusion is tapered in the vertical direction from a base portion joined to the rear wall toward a tip, as it becomes progressively smaller at the top of the protrusion so that medals ejected from the medal ejection port (Fig. 1, object 21) fall on a tapered portion of the protrusion portion (Fig. 6:

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25c), and wherein the protrusion portion extends across the entire width of the rear wall (Fig. 3, object 25a & 0027: "...consists of a back wall bulged part which swelled the lower end portion of the back wall part 25B in the shape of a section abbreviation semicircle in the direction of an inner side of the medal saucer 23B by covering the full length of a horizontal direction may be formed in one row wide") .

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keiji (JP 2003-024512 as disclosed by Applicant).

Re claim 2: The Applicant has stated within the specifications that the medal ejection port can be located within the rear wall:

"[0008] In the medal tray of the invention, a medal ejection port may be provided in the rear wall, and the protrusion portion may be disposed between the medal ejection port and the bottom wall. In this case, since the protrusion portion is interposed between the medal ejection port and the bottom wall, closing of the medal ejection port with medals

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on the bottom wall is suppressed.”

In addition, Applicant expresses the same intent for the medal ejection port to be located in the rear wall in paragraph 0072 and Figures 17 and 18. Keiji discloses that the rear wall is provided with a medal ejection port (Figure 1: object 21). Because Applicant discloses that the rear wall is a suitable location for the medal ejection port, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art as a matter of design choice to change the location of the medal ejection port of Keiji from the rear wall to the side wall, as it does not effect the functionality of the medal tray.

Re claim 3: Keiji discloses within Fig. 6 that the corner between the rear wall and bottom wall is curved. Keiji also discloses within Figures 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, and 13 the presence of a curved wall.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 04/29/2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

7. The Applicant argues that Keji fails to disclose the element of claims 1 and 6 that recites: “the protrusion portion is tapered in the vertical direction from a base portion joined to the rear wall toward a tip, and disposed between a medal ejection port and the bottom wall so that medals ejected from the medal ejection port fall on a tapered portion of the protrusion portion, and wherein the protrusion portion extends across the entire

width of the rear wall." The limitation has been addressed above. Specifically Applicant argues that Keiji fails to disclose how the separation promotion portion is positioned such that it is "disposed between a medal ejection port and the bottom wall" and "extends across the entire width of the rear wall. As is clearly displayed in Fig. 6, the protrusion is in between the bottom of the portion of the tray and between an ejection port as shown in Fig. 1, object 21. Applicant also argues that Keiji fails to disclose extending the protrusion across the entire width of the rear wall." However this is described in 0027 of Keiji where it is stated that the protrusion extends the entire length of the tray. Finally, the Applicant argues that Keiji fails to disclose that the "medals ejected from the medal ejection port fall on a tapered portion of the protrusion portion." Again, Keiji clearly shows this in Fig. 6 as the entire protrusion portion is tapered.

Conclusion

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

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the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to REGINALD A. RENWICK whose telephone number is (571)270-1913. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:30AM-5:00PM, Alt Fridays, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dmitry Suhol can be reached on 571-272-4430. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/R. A. R./
Examiner, Art Unit 3714

/Pierre E. Elisca/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3714

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